

**California Code of Regulations  
Title 22. Social Security  
Division 9. Prehospital Emergency Medical Services  
Chapter 8. Prehospital EMS Air Regulations**

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**ARTICLE 1. DEFINITIONS**

**§ 100276. Advanced Life Support.**

“Advanced life support” or “ALS” as used in this Chapter means any definitive prehospital emergency medical care role approved by the local EMS agency, in accordance with state regulations, which includes all of the specialized care services listed in Section 1797.52 of the Health and Safety Code.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.220, 1797.252, 1798.2 and 1798.102, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100277. Basic Life Support.**

“Basic life support” or “BLS” as used in this Chapter means those procedures and skills contained in the EMT-I scope of practice as listed in Section 100063, Title 22, California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.80, 1797.103, 1797.170 and 1797.252, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100278. Medical Flight Crew.**

“Medical flight crew” as used in this Chapter means the individual(s), excluding the pilot, specifically assigned to care for the patient during aircraft transport.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1, 1797.107, 1797.160, 1797.171 and 1797.172, Health and Safety Code. Reference: Sections 1797.80, 1797.82, 1797.84, 1797.103, 1797.160, 1797.170, 1797.171, 1797.172 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

**§ 100279. Emergency Medical Services Aircraft.**

“Emergency medical services aircraft” or “EMS aircraft” as used in this Chapter means any aircraft utilized for the purpose of prehospital emergency patient response and transport. EMS aircraft includes air ambulances and all categories of rescue aircraft.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.178, 1797.204, 1797.206 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100280. Air Ambulance.**

“Air ambulance” as used in this Chapter means any aircraft specially constructed, modified or equipped, and used for the primary purposes of responding to emergency calls and transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants certified or licensed in advanced life support.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.52, 1797.82, 1797.84, 1797.103, 1797.171, 1797.172, 1797.206, 1797.218 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100281. Rescue Aircraft.**

“Rescue aircraft” as used in this Chapter means an aircraft whose usual function is not prehospital emergency patient transport but which may be utilized, in compliance with local EMS policy, for prehospital emergency patient transport when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. Rescue aircraft includes ALS rescue aircraft, BLS rescue aircraft and Auxiliary rescue aircraft.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.52, 1797.60, 1797.82, 1797.84, 1797.103, 1797.171, 1797.172, 1797.206 and 1797.218, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100282. Advanced Life Support Rescue Aircraft.**

“Advanced life support Rescue aircraft” or “ALS rescue aircraft” as used in this Chapter means a rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has at a minimum one attendant certified or licensed in advanced life support.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.52, 1797.82, 1797.84, 1797.103, 1797.171, 1797.172, 1797.206, 1797.218 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100283. Basic Life Support Rescue Aircraft.**

“Basic life support rescue aircraft” or “BLS rescue aircraft” as used in this Chapter means a rescue aircraft whose medical flight crew has at a minimum one attendant certified as an EMT-IA, or an EMT-I-NA with at least eight (8) hours of hospital clinical training and whose field/clinical experience specified in Section 100074(c) of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, is in the aeromedical transport of patients.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.60, 1797.80, 1797.103 and 1797.170, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100284. Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft.**

“Auxiliary rescue aircraft” as used in this Chapter means a rescue aircraft which does not have a medical flight crew, or whose medical flight crew do not meet the minimum requirements established in Section 100283.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Section 1797.103, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100285. Air Ambulance Service.**

“Air ambulance service” as used in this Chapter means an air transportation service which utilizes air ambulances.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.206, 1797.218 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100286. Air Rescue Service.**

“Air rescue service” as used in this Chapter means an air service used for emergencies, including search and rescue.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.206 and 1797.218, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100287. Air Ambulance or Air Rescue Service Provider.**

“Air ambulance or air rescue service provider” as used in this Chapter means the individual or group that owns and/or operates an air ambulance or air rescue service.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.206, 1797.218 and 1797.222, Health and Safety Code.

#### **§ 100288. Classifying EMS Agency.**

“Classifying EMS agency” or “classifying agency” as used in this Chapter means the agency which categorizes the EMS aircraft into the groups identified in Section 100300(c)(3). This shall be the local EMS agency in the jurisdiction of origin except for aircraft operated by the California Highway Patrol, the California Department of Forestry or the California National Guard which shall be classified by the EMS Authority.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.54, 1797.94, 1797.103, 1797.204 and 1797.206, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 100289. Authorizing EMS Agency.**

“Authorizing EMS agency” or “authorizing agency” as used in this Chapter means the local EMS agency which approves utilization of specific EMS aircraft within its jurisdiction.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.84, 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.206 and 1797.218, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 100290. Jurisdiction of Origin.**

“Jurisdiction of origin” as used in this Chapter means the local EMS jurisdiction within which the authorized air ambulance or rescue aircraft is operationally based.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.94, 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.222 and 1797.250, Health and Safety Code.

### **§ 100291. Designated Dispatch Center.**

“Designated dispatch center” as used in this Chapter means an agency which has been designated by the local EMS agency for the purpose of coordinating air ambulance or rescue aircraft response to the scene of a medical emergency within the jurisdiction of a local EMS agency.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.222, 1797.252 and 1798.6, Health and Safety Code.

## **ARTICLE 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **§ 100300. Application of Chapter.**

(a) It is the scope of this Chapter to establish minimum standards for the integration of EMS Aircraft and personnel into the local EMS prehospital patient transport system as a specialized resource for the transport and care of emergency medical patients.

(b) A local EMS agency may integrate aircraft into its prehospital patient transport system. Each local EMS agency choosing to integrate such aircraft into its prehospital care system shall develop a program which at minimum:

(1) Classifies EMS aircraft in accordance with Section 100300(c)(3).

(2) Incorporates into their EMS plan the utilization of EMS aircraft including but not limited to an inventory of:

(A) The number and type of authorized EMS aircraft.

(B) The patient capacity of authorized EMS aircraft.

(C) The level of patient care provided by EMS aircraft personnel.

(D) Receiving facilities with landing sites approved by the State Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division.

(3) Establishes policies and/or procedures to assure compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(4) Develops written agreements with air ambulance or rescue aircraft providers specifying conditions to routinely serve their jurisdiction.

(c) In those jurisdictions where a local EMS agency has chosen to integrate aircraft into its prehospital patient transport system:

(1) No person or organization shall provide or hold themselves out as providing prehospital Air Ambulance or Air Rescue services unless that person or organization has aircraft which have been classified by a local EMS agency or in the case of the California Highway Patrol, California Department of Forestry, and California National Guard, the EMS Authority.

(2) All EMS Aircraft shall be classified.

(3) EMS aircraft classification shall be limited to the following categories:

(A) Air Ambulance

(B) ALS Rescue Aircraft

(C) BLS Rescue Aircraft

(D) Auxiliary Rescue Aircraft

(4) EMS Aircraft classification shall be reviewed in accordance with policies of the classifying agency. Reclassification shall occur if there is a transfer of ownership or a change in the aircraft's category.

(5) EMS aircraft must be authorized by the local EMS agency in order to provide prehospital patient transport within the jurisdiction of the local EMS agency.

A request from a designated dispatch center shall be deemed as authorization of aircraft operated by the California Highway Patrol, Department of Forestry, National Guard or the Federal Government.

(6) Air Ambulance and Air Rescue service providers including any company, lessee, agency (excluding agencies of the federal government), provider, owner, operator who provides or makes available prehospital air transport or medical personnel either directly or indirectly or any hospital where an EMS aircraft is based, housed, or stationed permanently or temporarily shall adhere to all federal, state, and local statutes, ordinances, policies, and procedures related to EMS aircraft operations, including qualifications of flight crews and aircraft maintenance.

(7) The local EMS agency may charge a fee to cover the costs directly associated with the classification and authorization of EMS aircraft.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.212, 1797.218, 1797.224 and 1797.252, Health and Safety Code.

### ARTICLE 3. PERSONNEL

#### **§ 100302. Medical Flight Crew.**

(a) The medical flight crew of an EMS aircraft shall have training in aeromedical transportation as specified and approved by the authorizing EMS agency including but not limited to:

- (1) General patient care in-flight.
- (2) Changes in barometric pressure, and pressure related maladies.
- (3) Changes in partial pressure of oxygen.
- (4) Other environmental factors affecting patient care.
- (5) Aircraft operational systems.
- (6) Aircraft emergencies and safety.
- (7) Care of patients who require special consideration in the airborne environment.
- (8) EMS system and communications procedures.
- (9) The prehospital care system(s) within which they operate including local medical and procedural protocols.

(10) Use of onboard medical equipment.

(b) All medical flight crews shall participate in such continuing education requirements as required by their licensure or certification. Continuing education in aeromedical transportation subjects may be required by the authorizing EMS agency.

(c) (Reserved)

(d) (Reserved)

(e) In situations where the medical flight crew is less medically qualified than the ground personnel from whom they receive patients they may assume patient care responsibility only in accordance with policies and procedures of the requesting local EMS agency.

(f) EMS aircraft that do not have a medical flight crew shall not transport patients except in accordance with the policies and procedures of the requesting local EMS agency.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.170, 1797.171, 1797.172, 1797.175, 1797.176, 1797.178, 1797.214, 1797.218, 1798 and 1798.6, Health and Safety Code.

#### ARTICLE 4. SYSTEM OPERATION

##### **§ 100304. System Policies and Procedures.**

(a) Those local EMS agencies choosing to integrate aircraft into the prehospital patient transport system shall develop policies and procedures for:

(1) the authorization of EMS aircraft to be utilized in prehospital patient care.

(2) requesting EMS aircraft including but not limited to the types of personnel and/or organizations that may request or cancel EMS aircraft. EMS aircraft requests shall only be made through a dispatch center which has been designated by a local EMS agency.

(3) the dispatching of EMS aircraft. These policies and procedures shall include but not be limited to:

(A) Availability and appropriateness of transportation and medical personnel resources including:

1. Ground versus air transport as related to proximity and type of incident.

2. Medical capability of potential responders.

(B) Notification of and coordination with other responding agencies.

(C) Termination of EMS aircraft response.

(4) Determining EMS aircraft patient destination including consideration of an interim stop at a rural hospital and continuation of care until the responsibility is assumed by the emergency or other staff of a final destination hospital.

(5) Orientation of pilots and medical flight crews to the local EMS system.

(6) Addressing and resolving formal complaints regarding the integration of aircraft into the prehospital patient transport system.

(b) The local agency's policies and procedures for medical control shall apply to the medical flight crew. Such policies and procedures may be modified by the local EMS agency, if required by the uniqueness of EMS aircraft response.

(c) The authorizing EMS agency's policies and procedures for record keeping and quality assurance, shall apply to EMS aircraft operations. Current policies and procedures may be modified if required by the uniqueness of EMS aircraft response.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.  
Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.105, 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.218, 1797.222 and 1797.252, Health and Safety Code.

## ARTICLE 5. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AIRCRAFT SPECIFICATIONS

### **§ 100306. Space and Equipment.**

(a) All EMS Aircraft shall be configured so that:

(1) There is sufficient space in the patient compartment to accommodate one (1) patient on a stretcher and one (1) patient attendant. Air ambulances shall at a minimum have space to accommodate one (1) patient and two (2) patient attendants.

(2) There is sufficient space for medical personnel to have adequate access to the patient in order to carry out necessary procedures including CPR on the ground and in the air.

(3) There is sufficient space for medical equipment and supplies required by State regulations or authorizing EMS agency policy.

(4) Additional authorizing EMS agency requirements are met.

(b) Each EMS aircraft shall have adequate safety belts and tie-downs for all personnel, patient(s), stretcher(s) and equipment to prevent inadvertent movement.

(c) Each EMS aircraft shall have on-board equipment and supplies commensurate with the scope of practice of the medical flight crew as specified by the classifying EMS agency. This requirement may be fulfilled through the utilization of appropriate kits



(cases/packs) which can be carried on a given flight to meet the needs of a specific type of patient and/or additional medical personnel not usually staffing the aircraft.

(d) Communications

(1) In accordance with authorizing EMS agency policies, all EMS aircraft shall have the capability of communicating with:

(A) Designated dispatch center(s).

(B) EMS ground units at the scene of an emergency.

(C) Designated base hospitals.

(D) Receiving hospitals.

(E) Other appropriate facilities or agencies.

(2) All EMS aircraft shall utilize appropriate radio frequencies for dispatch, routing and coordination of flights. This excludes use of Med 1-8 and HEAR (155.340 MHz and 155.280 MHz) for these purposes.

(3) Radio equipment may be inspected to assure compliance with the requirements of the authorizing EMS agency.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1797.1 and 1797.107, Health and Safety Code.

Reference: Sections 1797.103, 1797.204, 1797.206, 1797.220, 1797.222 and 1798.2, Health and Safety Code.